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# Hundreds are 'let off' for sex with under-13s: Police hand out 437 cautions to offenders in past five years despite crime carrying maximum jail term of 14 years

- · Some 'soft' punishments may be to avoid children giving evidence at trial
- But campaigners outraged at use of cautions, used in one in six cases
- Tory MP Philip Davies: Paedophiles being spared 'full force of the law'

By JAMES SLACK, HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR FOR THE DAILY MAIL

**PUBLISHED:** 18:26 EST, 27 January 2015 | **UPDATED:** 18:32 EST, 27 January 2015

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197

Hundreds of sex offenders are escaping with slap-on-the-wrist punishments for 'abhorrent' crimes including grooming and assaulting children.

Figures compiled by the Ministry of Justice reveal that perverts have been let off with cautions even when targeting those aged under 13.

The law states that a child aged 12 or under is incapable of consenting to any sexual activity - with perpetrators facing a maximum 14 years in jail.

But police have given out 437 cautions for the offence over the past five years.



Let off: More than 400 cautions have been given to offenders for sex with under-13s (posed by model)

The 'soft' punishment, sparing the offender a court appearance, is used in about one in six cases dealt with by the authorities.

Police and prosecutors are also dealing lightly with those quilty of grooming children for sex, despite public outrage over gangs targeting vulnerable youngsters.



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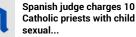


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Some 66 such crimes resulted in a caution between 2009 and 2013 – a shocking 18 per cent of the cases where action was taken.

Campaigners and MPs said the revelations were 'appalling'.

Tory MP Philip Davies, who unearthed the figures, said paedophiles were being spared the 'full force of the law', adding: 'It is completely unacceptable to give cautions for sexual activity with children under the age of 13.

'There are no mitigating factors and no excuses. They should go before a judge.'

Peter Cuthbertson, of the Centre For Crime Prevention, said: 'Even those well aware of how much cautions are being overused will be sickened. Cautions for major sex offences and paedophiles is completely unacceptable.'

The NSPCC said some decisions to issue a caution may have been taken to avoid a child having to give evidence in court. But it added that this was a damning indictment of the justice system.

The charity's Jon Brown said: 'A custodial sentence for serious sexual offences sends a very clear message that society will not accept their behaviour in any way. It also reflects the lifelong damage that sexual abuse can have on children and young people.

'A prison sentence can also mean the offender is given therapy to ensure they understand the impact of their behaviour and to reduce their risk of reoffending.'

There has long been controversy over the use of cautions for other types of sex offences.

Figures released to Mr Davies, a campaigner against soft justice, show there were 7,057 such punishments in a five-year period.

But the disclosure relating to those who have assaulted under-13s is particularly shocking.

MP Philip Davies: 'It is completely unacceptable'

Normally, officials explain the use of cautions for sex crimes as applying in cases such as a 17-year-old having sex with a 14 or 15-year-old.

Prosecutors may decide not to take the case to court because the act was consensual. Lib Dem justice minister Simon Hughes, who released the figures to Mr Davies, said: 'All sexual offences are abhorrent.'

Mike Penning, Tory justice minister, said the law was now being changed to ban the use of cautions for serious sexual offences.

He said: 'Under this Government, sex offenders are more likely to be locked up, and for longer ... we've banned the use of cautions for serious offences and we're now enshrining this in law.'

In a speech earlier this week, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling said the number of sex offenders was one of the 'biggest challenges' facing the courts, with a 'fairly rapid increase' in the number in jails.

He added: 'More have been arriving in our prisons and they have been staying there for longer than the typical offender.'

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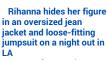
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GrumpyOldMan, London, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

I note that the ages of the offenders and the relationship to the victims is conveniently omitted. No one under 16 can give consent not 13. If the offenders were under 16 they too can not consent to sex and may even be boyfriend / girlfriend. This does not forgive the offence but may go part way to the figures. The under 13 comes in when someone under 21 tries to use the defence that they thought the victim was over 16 because someone under 13 can not give informed consent so it is rape. DM you have mixed and matched for impact only.

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This is disgraceful, whoever took the decision to give the caution should be brought to account by the PCC for the force which they oversee. There should be a mandatory requirement that all sex offences involving children should be a court case, there being no exemptions. Those offences involving 16 + years old should err on the side of court appearances.

New Comment Reply Click to rate 48 9



Dr Evil, Evil Towers, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

The police caution should be abolished as it is clearly being misused.

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 67 10

JohnnyHornet, Watford, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

It's amazing that something as serious as statutory rape is addressed with just a caution, whatever the reason, whoever it is it should be a mandatory prison sentence, no if's no buts

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 50 9

pass the bottle, lowestoft, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

Try again. The reason that people who deserve to be locked up are avoiding jail because there are not enough prison spaces for them. The criminal classes are on the increase but "crime is coming down". More BS from a BS government

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jamo, merseyside, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

And the police wonder why they are not trusted! This is a clear neglect of the LAW. We as the public have a legal right to justice. I believe that the police act outside their boundaries time and time again at the cost of the victims. They are nothing more than a corrupt organization that thinks of cost more than getting justice...

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Chasm, Liverpool, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago			

There was a police raid on my estate the other day; 2 murderers and a drug dealer were let off with a caution, but 2 sparrows and a starling were arrested for offensive tweets.

New Comment | Reply | Click to rate | 57 | 5

hawk4878ds, Chester, United Kingdom, about 12 hours ago

Welcome to no fault Britain. The reason this is happening is because of the policies of our present and past Governments. Don't blame the Police, they are only following the instructions from the Crown Prosecution Service, who only act from instruction's dictated by their Home Office superiors, which is headed by myopic MAY.

New Comment | Reply | Click to rate | 45 | 5

Hammers85, Essex, United Kingdom, about 13 hours ago

I would love to live in the world of the average DM reader where everything is black and white. Before you form an opinion in relation to this article may I suggest you go to the Ministry of Justice web site and invest 5 minutes of your time reading the Simple Cautions for Adult Offenders document that was published in November 2013, then you may realise that there are many factors to take into account before a Simple Caution can be administered.

New Comment Reply Click to rate 28 28

jonjo, wolverhampton, United Kingdom, about 13 hours ago

Yeah and thats probably one of the excuses why they keep saying that crime figures have gone down

New Comment | Reply Click to rate 38 5

TheGrandMufti, Berlin, Germany, about 13 hours ago

But motorists always get fined, even for the most harmless and victimless technical offence.

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Cast has been finalized

Scarlett Johansson cradles four-month-old daughter Rose in her arms as they enjoy some mother/daughter time in

She's a mom of one now

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Hike It Off! Taylor Swift displays her slender legs in tiny shorts as she goes on a trek in Hawaii with the Haim sisters Singer was keeping fit



PICTURE EXCLUSIVE: Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher coo over little Wyatt on family day at the beach

Pictured on family outing for first time



Paris Hilton continues to parade her amazing bikini body in a series of Instagram snaps... before jetting out of Bali Had an exotic vacation

Will she EVER get it right? As Kris Jenner steps out in see-through trousers, FEMAIL charts the Kardashian matriarch's fashion faux pas

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Model behavior: Naomi Campbell and Joan Smalls mingle with the fashion elite at Wall Street Journal bash in Paris Models at the soirée

Naomi Campbell, 44, proves she is the ULTIMATE catwalk queen as she reigns supreme on the Gaultier runway in a barely-there floral ensemble

'I was pumped about hanging with Jay Z and Beyoncé!' Nick Jonas on partying with the stars... and just why he ditched that purity ring Former good boy of pop

Not so Hot Right Now! Bleary eyed Rita Ora looks like she's in need of a good night's sleep as she steps out in tight vest top and leggings for long hike

Lindsay Lohan narrowly avoids jail as she 'completes 240 hours of community service for



















reckless driving... just in the nick of time'



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'We want to start a family for sure!' Lance Bass reveals his dream to have a child with new husband Michael Turchin Wed one month ago

Sam Worthington's pregnant girlfriend Lara Bingle comes out of hiding and shows off her sizeable baby bump for the first time in a white T-shirt

'We love you!' Gisele Bundchen sends support as husband Tom Brady faces pre-Super Bowl media amid 'defategate' His biggest supporter

Kate Upton and pregnant Abbey Clancy slip into designer Red Nose Day T-shirts and tiny hot



















pants for charity shoot Posed for ELLE UK





Bruce Jenner flicks his shoulder-length locks out of the way as he hangs out at LA car repair shop the day after Kim Kardashian spoke about THOSE rumors

Kim Kardashian visits Bruce Jenner after defending his 'journey' during TV interview... but gets stopped by police for a traffic violation Ran into trouble



Emile Hirsch 'put female Paramount exec in a headlock' during alleged assault at Sundance Film Festival Claims stem from evening at nightclub



The Theory Of Etiquette: Eddie Redmayne looks the dapper British gent in a grey tweed suit and with a vintage suitcase after Kimmel appearance



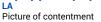
Sharon Stone, 56, shows off her slim figure as she pampers herself at a Beverly Hills salon Relaxed with afternoon manicure and pedicure



Dita Von Teese adds some sex appeal to her LBD with racy lace panels... but ruins the look with Amal Clooneystyle elbow-length gloves



The Sweetest Thing (for him!): Make-up free Selma Blair treats son Arthur to an ice cream as they enjoy a sunny day in LA





Courteney Cox, 50, looks younger than ever as she's joined by toyboy fiancé Johnny McDaid at the Cougar Town wrap party Age defying beauty



Back on home turf! Kris Jenner continues to the steal limelight from supermodel daughter Kendall... as she arrives back in Los Angeles in bizarre polka dot coat



Heavily pregnant Isla Fisher burns the calories as she steps out in a sporty vest top and leggings for an uphill hike Wedding Crashers star



No more Mr. Nice Guy! New dad Ryan Gosling looks every inch the hard

boiled detective as he is joined by co-star Angourie Rice on set of new crime thriller



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her patterned minidress for the Sundance premiere of I'll See You in My Dreams Joined by cast-mate Blythe Danner



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of her EIGHT pet pooches
out to lunch for her
mother
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she has dined with dog



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Bradley Cooper, Amy Poehler, and the rest of the Wet Hot American



















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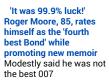




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She's a working mom













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Benedict Cumberbatch is guilty of





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'I eat really bad': Kim Kardashian confesses to hiring a nutritionist and changing her lifestyle after 15lbs weight gain On a strict diet now



Good girl gone bad! Salma Hayek strips down to her bra as she wields a gun at assassins in the new trailer for action thriller Everly



'I've never felt pretty enough to be a model,' says Pamela Anderson as she reveals plans to grow old gracefully rather than 'chase youth'



19 Kids and Counting's Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar BANNED midwife daughter Jill from helping relative because she was an unwed mother



'Bag inspiration': Victoria Beckham teases fans about her new collection as she models her sons' football rucksack She tweeted a photo



Un Día A La Vez anyone? Valerie Bertinelli's '70s sitcom One Day At A Time will be remade with a Latin cast Series ran until 1984



EXCLUSIVE: Liam Gallagher is facing a court fine over the American daughter he has never seen, warns her mother's lawyer

Sued over maintenance



Get out the whip! Chris Pratt 'is being considered to take over Harrison Ford's role as swashbuckler Indiana Jones for new Disney movie'



Lindsay Lohan 'parties in Paris nightclub' days before court date ...despite being in a 'race against time' to complete final hours of community service



Britney Spears reveals she sometimes feels like a 'dull and invisible mom' as she praises J-Lo's 'inspiring' movie The Boy

Next Door Needs her mojo back





**Former model Calum** Best makes peace with Cami-Li ahead of eviction result - after dismissing her from his bed in British **Celebrity Big Brother** 

Slash 'moves in with'

new girlfriend as they get matching GPS coordinates tattoos like Angelina Jolie... four weeks after he filed for divorce

Expansion plans! 'Pregnant' Ashlee Simpson's husband Evan Ross puts bachelor pad on the market for \$1.5m Hollywood Hills property

'Ready to rock!' Christina Aguilera reveals she will perform ahead of **NBA All-Star Game in** New York next month Joining Ariana Grande

Not so Haute Couture: Amber Le Bon dons leopard print jacket and unflattering grey shorts at Giorgio Armani show in **Paris** Model at Fashion Week

'It's gonna happen!' Winona Ryder reveals Beetlejuice 2 is finally coming together 27 years after the original hit She played a teen goth

'So excited!' Katie Holmes returns to TV as chic businesswoman in season three of Ray Donovan She has landed a seasonlong role

'I was a bit dubious about the hilt': Star Wars alum Ewan McGregor is reluctant about the new lightsaber... but is still waiting for the call to join the cast

Even a supermodel smudges! Georgia May Jagger joins the selfie campaign where women smear their lipstick to raise awareness about cervical cancer

'Tried to do Kylie Jenner lips': Snooki layers on paint to achieve extreme trout pout look made famous by the Keeping **Up With The Kardashians** star

**Kendall Jenner takes** center stage in a midriff-baring sheer blouse as she struts the Chanel



















catwalk at Paris Haute Couture Fashion Week Model of the moment



Looking for inspiration? Halle Berry stocks up on glossy home and fashion magazines on a day out with husband Olivier Martinez

'Disappointed' Chris Brown forced to postpone his tour after judge refuses to sign off on travel He's serving five years probation for assault

'Stay on your own path': Backstreet Boys offer One Direction some advice as they promote their new documentary The boys are back

If you thought the American Sniper 'baby' was freaky, check out the one Rooney Mara uses in new suspense thriller The Secret Scripture!

My weekend as a Kopycat Kim: Skintight latex, no underwear and a lot of attention... but can anyone pull off reality TV star's high-maintenance look?

Here comes the bride! Newlywed Behati Prinsloo stars in Tommy Hilfiger's 'I do' campaign alongside a handsome Adam Levine lookalike Victoria's Secret model

A burger, bleached eyebrows and designer duds! Kim Kardashian graces the pages of LOVE magazine in edgy new shoot Not her usual look

Hat's off to her! Natalie Dormer works off-duty style in grey panel jeans and black fedora as she arrives back in London Game of Thrones actress was in the UK

Tiger Woods is all smiles as he gets his tooth replaced after it was knocked out by clumsy videographer Woods was at a tournament in Arizona

'Snow buddies!'
Savannah Guthrie and
Natalie Morales enjoy an
early morning snowball
fight on chilly walk to
work during Winter Storm
Juno

Is Letizia the most lowkey royal in Europe? Spanish queen forgoes official car and WALKS to



















engagement in Madrid Queen Letizia was out and about in Madrid





'Of course I knew he was rich!': Former Playboy model, 25, reveals why she fell for billionaire, 82 (but claims money has NOTHING to do with it)



The secret to flawless skin? Donkey milk and horse oil are the hot new South Korean beauty trends making their way to the U.S.
New skincare routine

Meet Frozen's biggest superfan... and she isn't five-years-old! Woman, 21, has spent \$1,500 to emulate 'role model' Queen Elsa Kirsty Taylor is obsessed

Sex sells! Former Miss Universe Australia flaunts toned stomach in very revealing crop top and teeny-tiny bikini bottoms in beachside photo shoot

She's a wild one: Nicole Scherinzger slithers into a snakeprint dress as she joins David Oyelowo at European premiere of Selma

Kris Jenner rocks a polka dot coat while Kendall dons tasseled leather jacket... after the momager brags about her 'bad a\*\*\* look to boyfriend Corey

Django Unchained actress who accused LAPD of racially profiling her as a prostitute for 'having public sex' pleads not guilty Arrested in Los Angeles

200 pound woman swaps cookies for vegetables to lose a THIRD of her body weight and be crowned Miss Slinky (but still enjoys a glass of wine)

So she has got a sense of humor! Kim Kardashian makes fun of her career





















as a reality star as she teases fans in new Super Bowl advert



Ashley strips off her bikini top during group date on The Bachelor as self-professed virgin pursues Chris Soules Hopes her purity will help her win

Make-up free Jennifer Garner spends some quality time with her lookalike two-year-old son Samuel Enjoyed an outing with her youngest child

Johnny Depp rocks an oily 'do on the red carpet as he attends Tokyo premiere of Mortdecai with his glamorous fiancée Amber Heard Couple were in Japan

Kim Kardashian flaunts her shapely figure in a plunging leather top and super tight lycra skirt for dinner date She's not joining her sister and mom in Paris

Make-up free Denise Richards, 43, shows off her radiant skin as she runs errands in Bel-Air Charlie Sheen's ex wife stepped out au naturel and looked fabulous

'David Beckham ruined my favela!' Slumdwellers attack the star after shanty-town turns into luxury enclave because of rumors he bought a 'trendy shack'

Embarrassing moment Miss California contestant suffered a bikini malfunction in the swimsuit round... but somehow still managed to impress the judges

Game Of Thrones' Lena Headey swaps her royal robes for grungy gear on a casual shopping trip The 41-year-old plays Cersei Lannister

'Time to crash the big game!' Lindsay Lohan teases her car insurance commercial that will be aired during the Super Bowl Multiple DUI holder

'This is crazy right?': Channing Tatum gives childhood imaginary friend a hug as he is reunited with 'Boy' during Jimmy Kimmel appearance

'He loves my new boobs!' Katie Price says cheating



















husband Kieran Hayler is delighted after she reduced her breasts by FIVE cup sizes



'We are still good friends': Maggie Grace dishes on ex-beau lan Somerhalder after his engagement to new love Nikki Reed is confirmed Found fame in Taken

'My heart breaks for her': Shannen Doherty admits she gets 'uncomfortable' watching former 90210 co-star Tori Spelling's reality show

FIRST LOOK: Kate Mara and Miles Teller cope with the dark side of their superpowers in new Fantastic Four trailer Darker than 2005 film



Woman marries herself in emotional wedding ceremony after failing to meet 'the one' before the age of 40 Yasmin Eleby is from Houston, Texas

Tiffany & Co. china and organic cookies!
Kourtney Kardashian reveals her idea of tea time with daughter Penelope
She's a mother of three

'They don't want any competition!' Nicole Kidman says her two girls don't want mom to expand her brood... and reveals neither are keen on becoming actresses

Heidi Klum narrowly avoids a wardrobe malfunction after thighhigh split on her slinky LBD threatens to expose too much Clutched her high split

Dennis Quaid, 60, puffs on an e-cigarette as he steps out in LA wearing cycling gear He quit smoking in 2008 for the sake of his children

He's going in the other direction! Nick Kyrgios snubs 1D star Niall Horan after Australian Open loss as British pop singer made his way to see Andy Murray



















'She took it to a grungy level': Kenya Moore gyrates on the floor during family boat ride on Celebrity Apprentice Controversial Celebrity Apprentice



The 39-year-old met up with displaced Iraqis

'Have a burger to stay sane!' Gigi Hadid reveals she refuses to give up her favorite treats as she attacks modeling industry's pressure to be 'too thin'

'Baby Me, aged 19': Elizabeth Hurley, 49, shows she's barely aged as she posts throwback snap from three decades ago

Flashback to the '80s

Kristen Stewart ditches her trademark androgynous style for sophisticated Chanel chic as she makes an entrance at Paris Haute Couture Fashion Week

Mommy's little MasterChef! Kim Zolciak cannot help but boast about her three-year-old's skills in the kitchen as he looks like a mini professional

'Slightly frozen but lovin' it!' Hugh Jackman wraps up warm as he braces himself for the big snow blizzard about to hit New York

He survived storm Juno

Kendall Jenner rocks off-duty model chic in skinny black trousers and leather jacket after catwalk display at Chanel's Paris Haute Couture Fashion Week

'I'm sharing my favorite red carpet look': January Jones posts Miss Teen South Dakota throwback photo to honor SAG awards Flashback to the '80s

'It's the Bruce Jenner genes!' Daughter Kylie says she has dad to thank for keeping her slim despite 'bad' diet and no exercise Dad was Olympic athlete

Lawyer for Melissa Rivers claims her late mother's doctors were too busy acting like 'groupies' and taking pictures of star in operating room

Paris in paradise! Ms. Hilton plays with monkeys as she soaks up the sun on tropical holiday in Bali























The 33-year-old socialite is in South East Asia





'It's just silly like dungeons and dragons!' Amanda Peet reveals she thought husband David Benioff's idea for Game of Thrones 'wasn't going to work'

Rihanna stands under her own umbrella-ellaella as she flashes a hint of toned tum and plenty of leg in a crop top and thigh-split skirt Famed for Umbrella hit



Jumping for joy! Julianne Hough can't contain her excitement as she cheers from courtside seats at basketball game Actress was in LA



Destiny's mothers! Beyoncé wears a tight striped crop top and skirt as she and Jay-Z close down restaurant for lunch with Kelly Rowland



He's tie-dye for! Charlize Theron looks chic in a blazer and turned-up jeans as she takes son Jackson out in a colorful T-shirt Brightens up her day



Tamara Ecclestone and sister Petra Stunt step out in leggings and trainers for low-key lunch date as they coo over their babies
They love motherhood



'It's a train wreck!'
Jennifer Aniston reveals
watching The Bachelor is
her guilty pleasure
First watched the
program with her Justin
Theroux 'just for fun'



Good looks run in the family! Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's gorgeous (and VERY muscular) brother Toby wows in his first ever modelling gig



Rosie Huntington-Whiteley flaunts her flat stomach as she strips down to her smalls for new lingerie shoot Treated her 2.7million followers to a preview



Minka Kelly picks up some dog food... as she posts a picture of herself planting a big kiss on her pooch Fred The actress stepped out in Los Angeles



Taylor Swift hits all the right notes in a retro polka dot swimsuit as she soaks up the sun in





Bitter the action! Niall Horan enjoys a beer as he watches Andy Murray storm to victory at the Australian Open Attended the tennis Down Under

Quick change! Malin Akerman travels light with one bag as she heads to Sundance event in the same suede boots Headed to film festival



Fancy seeing you here! Adele, Harry Styles and Jennifer Lawrence enjoy an unlikely dinner date in Los Angeles Unlikely trio of friends dined out



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